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coming season, and specimens of flowers, fruit, and roots, fresh or dried, from any part of the country, may be sent to the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, and will be of service. — SERENO WATSON.

BOTANICAL NOTES FROM RECENT PERIODICALS. — *Flora*, No. 4. Schulzer, Notes on Fungi. Batalin, Mechanism of the Movements in Insect-Eating Plants (not yet finished).

Botanische Zeitung, 1877, No. 6. J. B. Jack, On European Hepaticæ (continued in No. 7). No. 8. Panic, A new Conifer in Servia. Report of Scientific Societies. No. 9. Celakovsky, On the Greenish Ovules of *Trifolium repens*. (These are often distinctly foliaceous, and are regarded by the author as metamorphosed leaflets of the carpel.) This paper is continued in No. 10.

ZOOLOGY.¹

WINTER BIRDS OF ARKANSAS. — Perhaps it will interest the readers of the *NATURALIST* to know of some birds which make Central Arkansas their winter quarters. The past winter has been the coldest known for many years, with considerable snow. The following list is certainly far from complete, as we have only been observing birds for a single season. Among the thrushes we have occasionally seen our familiar friend, the robin (*Turdus migratorius*), and the hermit thrush (*T. pallasi*), but usually they desire somewhat warmer weather than we have had this winter.

The mocking-bird (*Mimus polyglottus*) is very plenty around old plantation houses, and exhibits the peculiar markings of the Arkansas specimen spoken of by Baird in his Review of American Birds, page 49. It has an unusual amount of white upon its plumage, and the outer tail feathers clear white.

Perhaps the most abundant bird of the past winter has been the blue-bird (*Sialia sialis*); its food consists largely of the berries of the black gum (*Nyssa multiflora*).

The diminutive golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) has been observed, as have the tufted titmouse (*Lophophanes bicolor*), the southern black-capped chickadees (*Parus atricapillus* var. *Carolinensis*), the nut-hatch (*Sitta Carolinensis*), and the house wren (*Troglodytes ædon*). The gay tanager (*Pyrranga æstiva*) in his bright red plumage and the female with her more subdued hue have enlivened the landscape all winter.

The snow-bird (*Junco hyemalis*), following the snow-storm southward, was with us in great numbers for about three weeks. The meadow-lark (*Sturnella magna*) is common, so is the noisy blue jay (*Cyanurus cristatus*), proclaiming with harsh notes his close relationship to the crows. The kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) was occasionally seen hovering over the waters of the Little Red River in quest of food.

¹ The departments of Ornithology and Mammalogy are conducted by Dr. ELLIOTT COUES, U. S. A.

The woodpecker family has attracted our attention all winter by its many representatives, as follows:—

Logcock (*Hylotomus pileatus*), downy woodpecker (*Picus pubescens*) yellow-bellied woodpecker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Centurus Carolinus*), golden-winged woodpecker (*Colaptes auratus*).

Among the birds of prey we have observed the barn owl (*Strix flammea* var. *pratinctola*), barred owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*), and screech-owl (*Scops asio*), and the red-shouldered buzzard (*Buteo lineatus*). The latter feeds in confinement upon dead animals furnished it, but we found by experiment upon a specimen we had procured that it did not do well upon such food, for it died in a week from the time of its capture.

Here we find the turkey-buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) very plentiful. Mourning doves (*Zenaidura Carolinensis*), wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*), quails (*Ortyx Virginianus*), pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*), and mallard ducks (*Anas boschas*) are our winter game birds. The first of February finds the farmer in this region sowing oats and planting early garden seeds. At this time, we may say, our winter is over, and our summer birds will soon be with us again.—H. S. REYNOLDS, Judsonia, "White Co., Arkansas.

THE RED-HEADED WOODPECKER CARNIVOROUS.—A friend who resides in Humboldt County, this State, gives me the following particulars of an unusual occurrence: During the summer of 1876 he raised a large number of black Cayuga ducks. It was noticed that while the birds were still very young, many of them disappeared, one after the other, and the bodies of several were found with the brains picked out. On watching carefully to ascertain the cause, a red-headed woodpecker (*Melaneopes erythrocephalus*) was caught in the act. He killed the tender duckling with a single blow on the head, and then pecked out and ate the brains. Though my friend was an enthusiast in protecting the birds and squirrels that came about his premises, this provocation was too much; the shot gun was brought into use, and his ducks were saved from further molestation by a process by which the woodpeckers were "thinned out some."—CHARLES ALDRICH, Webster City, Iowa.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS.—The course of lectures on anthropology, commenced in November last at the Anthropological Institute of Paris, has succeeded beyond the expectation of its founders. In the institute are united three organizations of separate origin: the Society of Anthropology; the Laboratory of Anthropology, founded by M. Broca in 1867, and which has since been attached to L'École des Hautes Études; and the School of Anthropology, founded by private subscription, and sustained by an annual appropriation of twelve thousand francs.

Upon the recommendation of the faculty of medicine, the minister of public instruction has placed at the disposal of the Institute the upper